

THE LEXINGTON WEEKLY CAUCASIAN--JANUARY 28, 1871.

Our Religious Column.
TO THE FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

We earnestly invite attention to the following statements:

1. The work of the Society continues to expand, both at home and abroad. The political, social and religious movements of our country, foreign lands, and the fresh impulse given to a Christian effort in the mission field, must prepare the way for new and extensive demands upon us in this department of our labors.

At home, the resupply of the country is still receiving earnest attention. So far as ascertained, and without including the distribution through other benevolent societies to which we have given large supplies of books, there have been visited since May, 1860, not less than 247,861 families, or nearly 725,485, or nearly one in ten of the entire population of the States. About 200,000 individuals, representing a mil lion of people, have been supplied, in addition to some 70,000 children and other individuals, and over 4,000 Sabbath and secular schools.

Important facilities have recently been secured for distributing the Scriptures in Utah, where our agent has been kindly received and cordially aided.

We are now confronted by a vast work to be done among Chinese immigrants. Besides scattered colonies in other parts of the country, we are informed that there are now over 10,000 of these people on the Pacific slope, nearly all of whom can read. Some distribution among them has already been effected directly by us, and through our auxiliary, the California Bible Society. But the work is scarcely begun, and we must look to the liberality of our friends to aid us in presenting it promptly to the public.

2. The ordinary current receipts of the Society are not now sufficient to meet its obligations in the domestic and foreign fields; while its operations can be yet further extended, to keep pace with a larger liberality on the part of its friends, the gratitudes expressed of the past year should be doubled. This year, the managers could judiciously expend every dollar in embracing the opportunities and meeting the demands for Bible distribution already before them.

3. An erroneous impression seems to exist in some quarters that the Society is rich, and has ample unvested funds. It is true that it owns the Bible House, which was erected by the special contributions of friends in New York City, who made a free gift to the Society; and thus, with its manufacturing appliances, has become a valuable property. We cannot overestimate the value of this property, the resources which have been provided the best facilities for manufacturing books at the cheapest rates, and for steadily enlarging our benevolent work.

The house itself, therefore, is of value to the Bible cause only as funds are provided for maintaining the operations which it was built to promote. Beyond this, the Society has, and intends to have, no permanent investments. A tem poral fund, fluctuating in amount, has happily served during the last few years to save us from difficulties which the ordinary receipts would have been inadequate to prevent.

Yet, at the beginning of the present fiscal year, the general fund, which amounted to only \$44,000, while there were outstanding engagements to be met to the extent of nearly \$50,000. It would, therefore, be unjust to our work to withhold contributions on the ground of an apparent surplus, which would be more than exhausted if the Society's obligations were all due at once.

Nor can we depend on legacy as these are not always immediately available. They may be in form of real estate that cannot at once be sold, or securities that cannot be advantageously converted into cash; or they may be attended with conditions that deprive us of the present use of the funds.

In carrying out our plans, therefore, and meeting our engagements, our main reliance must always be on the current contributions of living friends.

4. It must be remembered that the Society is strictly a benevolent institution. It sells its books at cost, and to Auxiliary Societies below cost; while it annually distributes gratuitously, through its agents, auxiliaries, other charitable institutions and private individuals, many thousands of volumes. Its gratuitous work during the past year amounted to nearly \$200,000.

The American Bible Society, therefore, in view of its increasing responsibility, its strictly benevolent character, and the present demands of the work at home and abroad *certainly appeals to your sympathy, your prayers, and your liberality.*

JOSEPH HOLICK,
T. RALSTON SMITH,
Cor. Secy.

ANDREW L. TAYLOR, *Asst. Treas.*

CALEB T. ROSE, *Genl. Agent.*

BIBLE HOUSE, N. Y., Nov., 1870.

We insert the above communication with great pleasure. The work of the American Bible Society is surely second in importance to none which now commands the sympathy of intelligent Christians. It appeals to every lover of the Lord Jesus for his support, for its only work is to give the simple words of the Master to the inhabitants of the earth. Who is it that can fail to say, "God bless it," to such a work?

Some of the Christians of Lexington have organized an Auxiliary Society to co-operate in this great work. They have attempted to canvass this entire county, to visit every family, and to supply distribution. This work they have about completed; but it has been at some considerable outlay. This expense should be met at once, so that the debt which is owing to the parent society may be defrayed without delay. Having finished our work at home, we can then contribute to aid in supplying the bibles and other necessities sections with the precious word of life.

May the Lord speed the day when every individual of every land and every tongue will have God's word to read and study for himself.

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B 1870.

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